

**Fox, Susan**

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**From:** Jonathan Arnold [jonlarn@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2010 6:23 PM  
**To:** Fox, Susan  
**Subject:** Comm. of Pol. Practices Letter Of Interest  
**Attachments:** jon resume.doc

Dear Selection Committee,

I recently read that you are searching for candidates to serve as the new Commissioner of Political Practices and would like to submit myself for consideration. My name is Jonathan Arnold and I serve on the Philipsburg Town Council. Moreover, I have direct experience with Montana's campaign finance laws having conducted not only a municipal election, but as a candidate for State Office, having run for Montana's 43'rd senate district in 2010. In addition, I also have a BA and MA in Political Science.

I have a passion for open and responsible politics. I came to Montana after finishing graduate school to work for project vote smart, a non-partisan, non-profit, political research organization. I assisted the project in it's mission as a research assistant, media relations director, and maintenance director. Due to Project Vote Smart's non-partisan status, I left the project prior to running for office. I am currently living in Helena and looking for opportunities to work toward campaign finance reform and/or regulation. My girlfriend, another former Vote Smart employee now lives in Helena and works for the National Institute on Money in State Politics.

My time as a researcher and public servant, in addition to my education, has given me solid knowledge of the MCA's, election finance laws, committee requirements, and lobbying regulations in Montana. I thank you for your time and consideration and hope to have the opportunity to speak with you further.

Kind Regards,

Jon Arnold

## **Jonathan L. Arnold**

P.O. Box 592  
Philipsburg, MT 59858  
Phone: (406) 274-7634  
jonlarn@yahoo.com

### **Education**

Oklahoma State University  
M.A. Political Science  
GPA: 3.818

Stillwater, OK  
December 16, 2005

Oklahoma State University  
B.A. Political Science; minor: sociology  
GPA: 3.334

Stillwater, OK  
May 14, 2004

### **Experience**

Town of Philipsburg  
Town Council Ward 1

Philipsburg, MT  
April 2009-Present

-Represent at members of Ward one on the Philipsburg Town Council.

Project Vote Smart  
National Bus Tour Director/Research Assistant  
Research Assistant

September 2006-Present  
Philipsburg, MT

- Coordinate every aspect of PVS Bus Tour including vehicle purchase, outfitting, and venue reservation and promotion.
- Trained and received class B CDL to drive motor coach.
- Promote Vote Smart organization through literature, video presentation, and website demonstration to bus visitors.
- Perform research on all state and federal Presidential, Congressional, Gubernatorial, and Judicial incumbents and candidates.
- Areas of research include: Biographical, Issue Positions, Campaign Finances, Interest Group Ratings, Voting Records, and Speeches and Public Statements.
- Assist with the tracking, analysis, and input of 2008 Presidential NPAT (National Political Awareness Test) issued to all state and federal political candidates.

Tejas Air Inc.  
HVAC Technician

March 2006-September 2006  
Houston, TX

-Team member on a three-man crew servicing, repairing and installing Air Conditioning and Heating units.

JL Enterprises  
Carpenter

June 1998 - August 2005  
Liberal, KS

- Team member on a 2 - 4 man crew working in all areas of commercial and residential construction, remodel and repair.

- Skills include but are not limited to: masonry, framing, drywall, roofing, landscaping, painting, flooring, cabinetry, plumbing, and electrical.

TCIM Services

September 2001 - May 2003

Telephone Sales Representative

Stillwater, OK

- Utilized listening, communication, and people skills to sell products such as credit protection and reward programs in addition to other services over the telephone.

Wal-Mart #799

February 1999 - May 2000

Sales Associate

Liberal, KS

- Collected customer payments and closed daily sales transactions as a cashier, customer service representative and layaway associate.  
- Performed multiple tasks as needed including load-out, bicycle manufacturing, as well as sectional stocking and zoning.  
- Named Employee of the Month for January 2000

Zia Building Maintenance  
Maintenance

June 1998 - January 1999  
Albuquerque, NM

- Cleaned and maintained multiple office and manufacturing facilities, including an IT development facility as well as an AOL call service center.

### **Skills**

-Expert media interviewing and presentation skills (print, radio, television) as national spokesman for non-profit organization.  
- Microsoft Office including Excel, PowerPoint and Word; WordPerfect for Windows; SPSS (statistical processing for the social sciences) in addition to other data entry, retrieval and manipulation software.  
- Typing Speed: 65 wpm  
- Educated in locating, processing, utilization, and presentation of complex scholastic and academic ideas and information  
- Trained in performing several areas of advanced quantitative and qualitative research and analysis including polling, interviewing, focus groups, demographics, sampling, participant and non-participant observation, statistical tests for significance, etc.

### **Languages**

Elementary understanding and conversation in Spanish

## Fox, Susan

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**From:** Jonathan Arnold [jonlarn@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 01, 2010 12:05 PM  
**To:** Fox, Susan  
**Subject:** Re: Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

Please confirm receipt of my response.

Kind Regards,

Jon Arnold

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP?

Yes, I am familiar with the restrictions placed on the COPP both during appointment and the five years that follow.

2. What is your legal writing experience?

Limited. I am an academic, not an attorney. However, I have written scholarly work (a Master's Thesis) and am trained in MLA style writing, including formal legal citation.

3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP?

No.

4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative?

I currently sit on the Philipsburg Town Council and received the GOP nomination for Montana's 43rd senate district in 2010.

5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives?

I ran as a GOP candidate for the State Senate. However, I have been trained in the positivist paradigm of research. In addition, I took a non-profit job with Project Vote Smart after finishing graduate school. This position required all employees to put aside any personal political philosophies and/or ideologies in pursuit of a non-partisan cause. If appointed I am more than capable of putting aside my own personal positions and analyzing complaints brought to the office in an unobjective manner.

6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits?

I am comfortable with the current contribution campaign limits other than the ability of candidates to donate as much money as they want to their own campaign. This gives wealthy persons an unfair advantage in the pursuit of political office. For instance around 7 million Americans have a net worth of more than one million \$US, constituting a little over 2% of the US population. However, over 40% (241) federal politicians have a net worth valued over one million \$US. Campaign finance laws provide wealthy persons with a higher percent of winning political office. This has created a strong condition of oligarchic characteristics within our national political climate. Unfortunately, just because someone is rich does not mean that they are the best qualified candidate for public service, it simply means that they are more likely to be victorious in a political election. Academic research has shown that wealth gives an unfair advantage to candidates in state elections as well, I personally would like to see this addressed by campaign contribution law.

7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist?

No.

8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities?

Yes, but these restrictions must be determined by the Governor and the legislature. The Commissioner of Political Practices must be able to put aside personal agendas and interpret the legality of actions by all political groups, parties, and persons without bias caused by ones own personal desires.

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**From:** "Fox, Susan" <sfox@mt.gov>  
**To:** "cuf@mt.net" <cuf@mt.net>; "marcglines@yahoo.com" <marcglines@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wed, December 1, 2010 11:33:55 AM  
**Subject:** Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

This email is to confirm receipt of your letter of interest and resumes. Thank you for your letter of interest for the position of Commissioner of Political Practices. The selection committee would like you to respond to the following questions by December 6. The selection committee will meet sometime the week of December 6. I will get that information to you as soon as I can.  
Thanks for your interest, Susan

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP?
2. What is your legal writing experience?
3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP?
4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative?
5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives?
6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits?
7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist?
8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities?

**Susan Byorth Fox**  
Executive Director  
Montana Legislative Services  
(406) 444-3066  
[sfox@mt.gov](mailto:sfox@mt.gov)